

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03398 031235Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3398

EXDIS

FOR IO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: FAO, LE
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON LEBANESE SITUATION

1. OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL
SAOUMA'S REQUESTS TO CALL ON SECRETARY VANCE AND PRESIDENT
CARTER DURING HIS MARCH 20-23 VISIT TO WASHINGTON ARE THE FOLLOWING
VIEWS ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION EXPRESSED IN SEPARATE CON-
VERSATIONS WITH THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO AND HIS DEPUTY
ON MARCH 2, SHORTLY AFTER SAOUMA'S RETURN FROM AN OFFICIAL
VISIT AND BRIEF PERSONAL LEAVE IN LEBANON TO SET HIS FAMILY
UP IN LIVEABLE CONDITION.

2. SAOUMA REFERRED TO POSSIBLE U.S.-U.S.S.R. AGREEMENT TO
EXTEND THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE INTO SOUTH LEBANON TO REDUCE
TENSIONS THERE. SAOUMA STRONGLY SUPPORTED MOVE AS WAY OF BRINGING
POLITICAL CALM TO LEBANON. HE WAS NOT SURE OF U.S.S.R. OR U.S.
POSITIONS, THOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. WORRIED ABOUT INCREASED
FINANCIAL COSTS AND UNDERSTOOD ISRAEL'S POSITION NOT YET FAVORABLE.
STILL IF U.N. FORCE WERE EXTENDED TO SOUTH LEBANON THEN AGREEMENT
FOR ARAB PEACEKEEPING FORCE WOULD HAVE TO BE RECONSIDERED SO
THAT LEBANON MIGHT BE FREE AGAIN.

3. UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM, WHEN HE MET SAOUMA IN LEBANON
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IN EARLY FEBRUARY, HE HAD NO ILLUSION THAT HE COULD ACTUALLY
ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING ON HIS OWN IN HIS PEACE-KEEPING TOUR OF THE
MIDDLE EAST. THE REAL SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM U.S.
INITIATIVES AND REACTIONS TO THEM. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD MADE THE
TIP SIMPLY BECAUSE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL HAD DIRECTED HIM TO DO SO.

BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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